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LABOUR ORGANISER

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DARTFORD C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the N.E.C. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 5th May, 1956.

WEMBLEY SOUTH C.L.P. — Applications are invited for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms available from **A. J. Allen, The Labour Hall, Union Road, Wembley**, to whom they should be returned not later than 31st May 1956.

GRANTHAM C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the N.E.C. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, The Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 30th April, 1956.

GAINSBOROUGH C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the N.E.C. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, The Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 30th April, 1956.

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Application forms must be returned to the NATIONAL AGENT not later than 4th MAY, 1956

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

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PRICE FIVEPENCE

Getting On With It

THE National Executive Sub-Committee on Party Organisation in their report had some harsh things to say about the effectiveness of City and Borough Labour Parties. They recommended the recasting of these organisations so as to make the Constituency Labour Parties "the centre of authority and the normal recipients of direct affiliation from trade unions or ward parties."

Also, they proposed that the City and Borough Parties "should be organised on a federal basis and should have only such resources as Constituency Labour Parties are prepared to devote to their work."

Naturally, these recommendations aroused a great deal of controversy and before making any firm decision the National Executive Committee has asked its Regional and Field Sub-Committee to examine the position further.

Consultations are taking place with representatives of the parties in divided boroughs. Already, members of the sub-committee have visited Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Stockport and Preston, and early visits are to be paid to Leeds, Hull, Glasgow and Edinburgh. If constitutional changes are considered necessary it is unlikely that it will be possible for amendment to the model rules to be proposed to this year's Annual Conference.

Another important recommendation in the report was that there should be built up a complete record of Labour supporters

in every marginal constituency by September of next year.

To launch this effort, the members of the Regional and Field Sub-Committee hope to visit every Tory held marginal constituency by Annual Conference. So far they have seen representatives of Constituency Labour Parties in Walton, Kirkdale, Toxteth, Preston North and South, Bolton East and West, Wythenshawe, Bury & Radcliffe, and Oldham East and West.

The meetings have shown that the importance of proper records is now widely recognised and the members of the sub-committee have been greatly encouraged by the steps most of the parties they have visited are taking to hit the target that has been set.

The Regional Councils are examining canvass, recording and calling-up systems with a view to bringing about some uniformity. Also, in their schemes for assistance to the marginal constituencies most of the Regional Organisers have made provision for the supply of committee room material.

Existing systems include the pasted register, in its many variations, and the single canvass card. Wide interest has been created in the 'Reading' system, which has been tried out in two recent by-elections.

The ideal system has not yet been discovered and even if desirable, complete uniformity is impracticable. The essence of any efficient system is the quick identification of support, so that Labour supporters who have not voted can be persuaded to go to the poll. Two original systems are explained in articles in this issue.

Glancing Backward

FROM his retreat in the "cool green Paradise" of Worcestershire, Herbert Drinkwater has made one of his rare emergences, and his refreshing article of last month sent me dashing to my bookshelves to exhume the *Labour Organiser*, No. 1, August, 1920.

To forestall hundreds of eager enquiries, it is not for sale. It may appear at a later date among my testamentary dispositions.

A whole generation ago Drinkwater saw clearly that organisation must play a vital part in producing the future triumph of the Labour Party in the political life of the country, and in his opening paragraph he wrote:

The life of the "Labour Organiser" may be long or short, according as its usefulness is maintained and appreciated; but so long as Labour remains a concrete and living force in the life of the nation, so long must its organising machinery be matter for study and discussion.

Who will question that to-day? The answer lies in the fact that the *Labour Organiser* is now nearly 36 years young and does not appear to have outgrown its usefulness to either the "green 'un" or the old hand in the ranks of the Party's officers and active workers.

It is noteworthy that those of the generation which gave birth to the Labour Party do not grow old. They remember, and Drinkwater's quieter life in these latter years must be very rich in memories of the great days of old.

Does he remember that summer, before there was a *Labour Organiser*, when "The Eye of the World was on Widnes"? What an epic among by-elections that was, with Drinkwater as agent!

DOES he remember grand old Sam Hague, most staid and kindly of veteran agents, standing on the steps of his district committee room, solemnly

conducting a small choir of ragamuffins singing lustily, "... And we'll throw old Fisher (Tory candidate) in the dock!"?

Does he remember the terrific Eve-of-the-Poll, when we had 11 indoor meetings scattered over the large constituency serviced by 25 M.P.s plus Mary MacArthur, Margaret Bondfield and Doctor Marion Phillips?

Does the old tyrant remember that he allowed his harassed Meetings Officer three hired cars to distribute these 288 speakers and a few other of less renown to their meetings, to collect their bodies afterwards and deposit them variously at their scattered lodgings for the night? And that somehow, heaven knows how, the job got done?

Does he remember that notwithstanding the drizzle a relay of devoted orators held a crowd of seven or eight thousand standing in Widnes Market Place, and that of all who took the platform that night, Lilian Anderson Fenn, young, slim, svelte, in a navy blue suit and a wide hat swathed in a brave red scarf, outshone the lot?

AND does he remember that at 11.45 p.m. "Uncle Arthur" returned to the Committee Room, dead beat, with hair rumpled and sweat streaming down his face, his voice reduced to a wheezy croak?

Ay, Bert, them wuz the days!

Well, Widnes was won, and the victory electrified the Party throughout Britain, and thousands who had been dejected that the Party had not done better at the General Election of 1918, took fresh heart and courage.

And why not now? Congratulations to Bob Chamberlain and his team at Taunton, for they very nearly pulled off another Widnes!

All-Purpose Record Card

GOOD records are the keynote of efficient organisation. Efficient organisation is the highroad to success. By success we mean primarily success at the polls, but ultimately the creation of a socialist society.

Our ultimate aim, by its nature, cannot be arrived at except by a series of evolutionary steps and it has occurred to us that if the Labour vote is looked upon as a product of evolution a new and interesting slant on the way records of the electorate may be kept presents itself.

KEEPING CHECK

Let's look at it this way. A person is first of all unknown to us. When canvassed he appears hostile, but at a later date becomes friendly but doubtful. Still later he accepts our views and becomes a supporter. Finally he joins the Party and becomes a worker. This is the natural evolution. If the progress of the average person was the reverse of this we might as well pack the job up—we just wouldn't have any future.

Granted, then, that an unknown develops by a series of steps to a supporter, how can we incorporate this development in any comprehensive system which is a variation of the individual card system without either wrecking it or constantly changing cards or colours at accumulating cost, as in the Reading System.

We say that it can be done in this way. All cards should be the same colour (buff if you wish as white gets dirty) and the card itself evolves by a series of steps made by cut-outs on the card.

No. 1 is an unknown (still uncanvassed). Card 1a is a known Tory or Liberal member. Card 2 is a hostile doubtful with no definite Party affiliation. Card 3 is a friendly doubtful. Card 4 is a Labour supporter. Card 5 is a Labour Party member (a distinctive tab affixed).

Bona fide opponents (1a) remains as

Card No. 1 in shape with the left-hand corner coloured in their Party colour, so that they can develop to doubtfuls or supporters later.

The cut-out corners and V's are printed on the cards and snipped as new canvass returns come in and cards are made out.

Each card is printed as illustrated.

Section 1 is completed for all the electorate. Section 2 is completed only for doubtfuls. Section 3 is completed only for supporters and members.

Section 1 is almost self-explanatory. The T.U. and P.V. panels are included in Section 1 to bring them to the top of the card for easy reference and the two notations are together for use in locating travelling workers (N.U.R., A.S.L.E.F., N.U.S., etc.) who might need postal votes. These two panels are, however, only completed for supporters.

Section 2 is completed in pencil only, for obvious reasons of later development.

Section 3 includes approximate age for use in allocating tasks to workers, and also occupation for similar reasons. The special abilities section includes such things as car drivers and owners, suitable chairmen for meetings, shift-workers available for day-time, and so forth.

All cards are made out from canvass returns and the electoral register and are the second copy of a duplicate, the top copy being a flimsy. The top copy is filed alphabetically for reference, whereas the actual working cards are in street order.

The reverse of the card is printed as below to allow for use over a period of years.

FILING DRAWER

The filing drawer reversed, therefore, may be used for calling-off in conjunction with a wall-chart of polling numbers on polling day. Information as to postal voters and 'Y' voters is entered again on this side in the remarks column in the case of potential supporters. It will be appreciated that no further information is required on the reverse for calling-off persons as all supporters are readily

identifiable by card shape.

The only differently coloured card is the 'Removal' card. This card, the same size as the others bears on the front, register number, year and the words "Name" and "Removed to". Upon a removal being noted this card replaces the normal card and remains in the filing drawer until the next register is published.

If completed in pencil, Removal Cards may be used many times. The original card, bearing personal details with amended address moves to the new location, whether in the same constituency or not and, if a supporter, is followed up for postal vote if necessary. On publication of the new register the removal card goes out of use. The reverse of the removal card simply shows registered number and whether supporter or not.

This system allows for your own developments and refinements. For instance, dividing cards may be inserted at beginning of streets showing street steward's name and details. The system also permits cards to be readily divided or reclassified into types, such as sup-

porters, againsts and doubtfuls, as required.

A separate record, cross-referenced, can be kept for postal and 'Y' voters if desired.

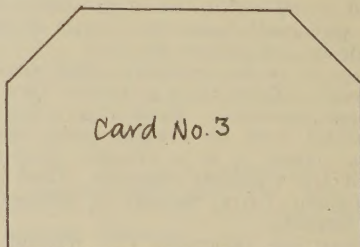
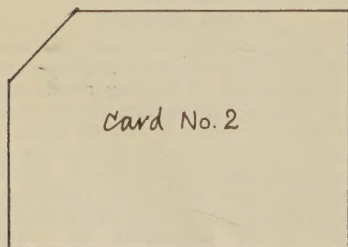
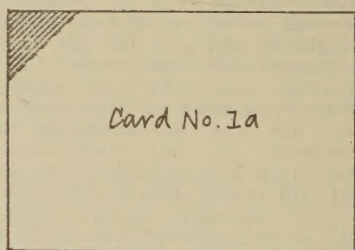
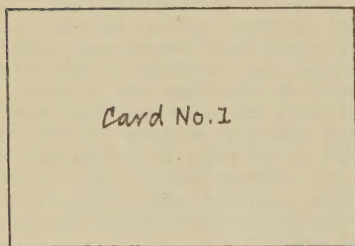
Cards are recommended to be at least 4 in. x 6 in. with cut-out lines and headings printed in miniature.

In this evolutionary system no situation is baffling; members are spotted immediately as are supporters, the former by their tab and both by the central 'V' cut-out. The progress of canvass work, and its success or otherwise is readily discernible at a glance and mass support can be located simply by opening a drawer, as can hard cores of resistance.

Naturally, the information panels can be varied to suit requirements, although those shown are reasonable and adequate without being excessive.

The whole system begins to collapse when you say, "Where on earth are the scissors? Never mind, I'll snip it later." Therefore, a pair of scissors literally fastened to the filing cabinet are a 'must' if you are to snip your way to victory.

here are the cards



Card No. 4

Card No 5

SECTION 1

SECTION 2

SECTION 3

Name		Address	
If Y voter insert below	Polling District	If postal vote reqrd.	T.V.
Date last canvassed	Reasons for doubt	Remarks	
Special Notes			
Approx Age	Special abilities	Remarks	
Occupation	Party Membership Details		

(Reverse side
of card)

Year	Reg No.	Remarks	Year	Reg No.	Remarks
1952	1696	"Y" vote			
1953	1706	"S" vote			
1954	1711				
1955	1716	P.V.			

NEW MEMBERS WERE RETAINED

HOW easy it is to make new members today. The real problem is, and always will be, that of consolidation. However, in East Anglia we can give an example of what can be achieved as a result of well planned recruiting campaigns.

Last September we had the services of students from University Labour Clubs and they worked in Maldon, Billericay, Mid-Beds, Eye, Epping, Yarmouth and S.W. Norfolk constituencies. In planning this work we made up our minds that the extent of increased membership was unimportant when compared with the creation of new units of organisation on firm foundations.

Take the Eye constituency for instance. This widespread rural area covering 175 parishes and 339,957 acres presents an organisational problem. But what an exciting job when there are many to share it. Eye constituency will soon be seeking a full-time agent.

Following consultation with the CLP officials it was decided to employ our students in five villages, all within a few miles of each other, in one corner of the constituency. Electorates were:

Yoxford ...	537
Darsham ...	283
Kelsale ...	659
Theberton ...	329
Westleton ...	425

Yoxford alone had a local Party of 10 members. Altogether 137 members were enrolled and 8 collectors secured.

So far so good, but the main job of Party formation was to come. It was completely successful and what's more, we had little difficulty in getting officers.

To test the value of a campaign one must examine long-term achievements. Today, five months after the initial campaign, all five Parties are doing well. Aggregate membership has risen by 65 to 222 amounting to 10% of the total electorate. Of this total, Darsham with 56 members has enrolled 20% of the electorate.

What about £.s.d.? Besides 100% subs, over £40 had been raised from whist drives up to January 31st. They have

done their share of political propaganda too. Each Party distributed copies of "It's an Ill Wind" and Harry Hynd, M.P. addressed meetings at Yoxford and Bramfield (nearby) in February.

Another direct result of the campaign was the formation of a live Party, a few weeks back, at nearby Saxmundham, an important centre which has been a problem for years. In rural areas enthusiasm can be infectious.

Much the same happened in the other constituencies. In Billericay, Brentwood Urban District—3 new Ward Parties established. Yarmouth—new Local Labour Parties at Upton, Ormesby and Rollesby. Mid. Beds—new Local Labour Parties at Maulden and Stewartby.

In Epping constituency the formation of a Ward Party at Upshire paved the way for a Labour gain by nine votes in an Urban District By-Election. This gave us control of the Council.

In two other constituencies substantial membership increases at Downham (S.W. Norfolk) and Braintree (Maldon) greatly strengthened the respective Parties.

Altogether 1,565 new members were recruited and 67 voluntary collectors secured. Reports indicate that the wastage has been small whilst in most cases further increases have been made.

The Constituency Labour Parties which benefited were loud in praise of this excellent work. By working along these lines we are hoping for similar successes in 1956.

Douglas Garnett

Was National Agent

THE death of Arthur Peters, C.B.E., breaks a link with the early days of the Labour Party.

Coming from the Liberals, he was the first National Agent, being appointed in 1908.

Later, he drifted away from the Labour Party and for many years until 1945 he was a 'Ratepayers' member of the Croydon Borough Council, and was Mayor from 1935 to 1937.

Dealing with Correspondence

BUSINESSLIKE handling of correspondence is of great importance, for if it is handled in a dilatory manner it can take up far more of the time of a meeting than is legitimate.

Correspondence should be addressed to a secretary who can be of great assistance both to his fellow officers and the meeting as a whole, if he has carefully digested the contents of the correspondence prior to the meeting.

INFORMAL TALK

The secretary will be well advised to have an informal talk to his chairman about the correspondence when he is consulting him about the agenda just prior to a meeting. This alerts the chairman's mind and assists him to deal expeditiously with the points likely to arise out of correspondence.

Furthermore, there may be special items of correspondence which the chairman considers of such importance that they should appear on the agenda as special items. In that case the two officers can agree where such items should appear on the agenda.

There are certain types of lengthy correspondence received which not only take a considerable time to read in detail, but which cannot possibly be assimilated by the meeting.

A secretary who can summarise this type of communication and give a clear outline rather than read the text, is doing the members a good service.

A meeting can always request the full text if it is not satisfied with the summary and then only has itself to blame if it becomes bored in the process.

If an organisation has an Executive Committee correspondence should be brought to the notice of that body before it goes to the General Committee.

There may be occasions when emergency correspondence has to go direct to the General Committee for a speedy decision, if it has been received after an Executive Committee meeting has been held.

It is the duty of an Executive Com-

mittee to consider the correspondence carefully and make recommendations thereon through its minutes to the General Committee whenever possible.

There may be some correspondence which the Executive Committee refers to the General Committee without recommendation, and in that event such letters will be dealt with at the General Committee under the item of 'Correspondence'.

The Executive Committee may consider some items of correspondence as of such importance that they should appear on the agenda of the General Committee meeting as special items.

It is, however, essential that an Executive Committee should work as a responsible body and save as much time as possible at General Committee meetings by making recommendations on correspondence instead of taking up the valuable time of the meeting by reading letter after letter.

The practice of dealing with correspondence varies.

Some organisations adopt the method of reading the whole of the correspondence. Where this method is adopted the chairman should put the following motion immediately after the correspondence has been read, "That the correspondence be accepted as read."

He should then ask, "Is there anything arising?"

VERY CUMBERSOME

Members are then at liberty to ask questions or move motions on the correspondence. This method can be very cumbersome, and unless the officers are very alert important points can be overlooked.

The second method is to deal with each letter separately. This may take a little more time, but on the whole it does ensure that points are not overlooked. As each letter is read a motion should be moved, and where no action is contemplated the formal motion, "That the letter be noted", should be moved.

A third method which often proves helpful, and certainly saves time, is to group the correspondence dealing with

(Continued on page 76)

FOUR-POINT ME

DURING the past few months the Party has been directing more and more attention to efficiency, and Constituency Labour Parties have been asked to completely overhaul their organisations.

Voluntary Labour

In a large number of constituencies all the work is carried out by voluntary labour. It is essential, therefore, that methods be employed from which the maximum efficiency is obtained with the minimum amount of effort. Whenever it is possible to 'cover' two or three jobs by one operation this must be done and the valuable time saved devoted to introducing further improvements and increasing membership.

The usual method of recording membership contributions, which is based upon the membership collecting books provided by Transport House, is somewhat archaic and leaves much room for improvement. The Walton Constituency Party uses a subscription recording system which is produced in one operation and provides:

1. Ward membership records;
2. Collectors' books;
3. Next year's Constituency membership records;
4. A continual reminder wherever our target of one member per street has not been achieved.

The Basis

The basis of this 'four-purpose' membership recording system is simply a looseleaf 5 in. x 8 in. card, printed as shown in the sample and punched along the lower edge to fit into a ring folder. It is produced in 'Glory' index card, which is durable and at the same time thin enough to take a carbon copy.

At the commencement of the year the Ward Membership Secretary types the complete membership, in duplicate, on to these cards, no single card covering more

than one street. The top copies are then put on to ring clips and, with suitable back boards, form the ward membership subscription record. Polling districts are clearly indicated by 1 in. Roneo window signals which are attached to the first card in each polling district.

Every street in the constituency is numbered and each street record card carries the street number. Thus whenever the membership record is handled, because it contains only those streets within which members reside and because its index system is based upon street numbers, there is an ever-present reminder that gaps in the numbering system need filling in and those gaps can only be completely closed when we have at least one member in each street.

Master Cards

Two master index cards are kept at the front of the book. The first showing the collectors' names and indicating the polling district and street numbers from which they collect. The second again showing the collectors' names, but giving

Road **ALBANY ROAD**

House No.	NAME	Male or Female		Jan	Feb
26	Mrs. Conlon ..	F		6d.	6c
"	Miss K. Conlon	F		6d.	6c
54	Mr. Walker ..	M		6/-	
"	Mrs. Walker ..	F			1/-
86	Mr. Sumner ..	M			
"	Mrs. Sumner ..	F			
90	Mr. Robinson ..	M			1/-
"	Mrs. Robinson	F			1/-
92	Mr. Pye ..	M			
"	Mrs. Pye ..	F			
		M F			
		4 6		7/-	4/-

MEMBERSHIP RECORD

a monthly analysis of subscriptions paid in by them.

The carbon copies of the record cards make up the collecting books. Each collector is provided with cards covering the streets from which he collects. These cards are bound together by ring clips and the resultant booklet is backed with very stiff cardboard upon which it is easy to write when recording payments on the doorstep.

Recruit Collectors

We should be continually striving not only to obtain one member per street, but also one collector for every twenty members. It is quite possible that at the commencement of the year collector 'Bill Smith' will be overloaded with anything from fifty to seventy members on his book. The Membership Secretary and Bill Smith should continually be on the lookout for likely new collectors and when they are found, Bill Smith's book is quite simply reduced by the removal of certain street cards from his looseleaf collecting book. These streets can then

be clipped together and become the records of the new collector.

At the year end, when all the collectors' books are called in for audit and after the ward auditors have checked them against the ward subscription record, the Membership Secretary prepares his new year's records and then passes his old record over to the Constituency Secretary.

Analysis Card

The master subscription analysis card, at the front of the membership record, will show the total subscriptions received in the ward during the year and will carry the signatures of the ward auditors. It is then a simple matter to check that the Constituency Party has received its correct share of contributions from each ward.

The Constituency Secretary now has an absolutely up-to-date record of Party members in his possession to which throughout the year he can add the names of all new members accepted into membership at Constituency meetings. All he has to concern himself with is keeping track of membership wastage. If the worst comes to the worst and he does not receive notification of every member who leaves the Party during the year, he will at least find his records corrected when at the end of that year he receives a further full set of records from each ward.

The Cost

So far as cost is concerned, on a Constituency basis we have obtained 1,000 cards together with ring clips, back boards and window signals for a total cost of £4 12s. Card replacements next year will cost £3.

We have found this system to be compact and easy to handle, particularly on the doorstep. It is vastly superior to the usual membership book, because in one operation three sets of records are produced, the largest of which is only the size and weight of a normal library book.

Laura A. Kirton

Street No. 201
P.D. No. 155

June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6 0
6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6 0
							6 0
1/-				1/-			3 0
		3/-					6 0
		3/-					6 0
6d.			6d.		1/-	6d.	4 6
6d.			6d.		1/-	6d.	4 6
				3/-			6 0
		3/-					5 6
3/-	1/-	10/-	2/-	5/-	3/-	2/-	£2 13 6

VISUAL CONTROL OF ELECTIONS

by C. F. Rhodes

WARLINGHAM'S Visual Control System has been specially designed to fulfil a definite specification demanding the following requirements:

1. The ability to *see at all times* the numbers and locations of all unpolled Labour votes.

2. The ability to *see at all times* the comparative strength of votes cast in the various categories—For, Against and Doubtful.

3. The ability to *see at all times* concentration areas of unpolled supporters, thus facilitating an efficient remedial operation.

4. The ability to translate these points into positive action by the maintenance of a highly-efficient force of knockers-up and cars, acting as an organised unit.

Canvassing. As with any system, the need for a comprehensive canvass is of paramount importance, and in Warlingham we perform this phase in the mass. A team of canvassers go out as a body, reporting their progress to a canvass clerk who marks direct on to a register.

Wall Board. This is rather similar to the well-known wall chart, but with very marked improvements. Ours is made up of two sheets of hardboard, each 3 ft. x 4 ft., braced at the back with timbers 2 in. x ½ in. all round the outer edges. Into this are driven ½ in. nails in columns 1 in. apart and at 1 in. intervals, so that the whole area of each board is evenly pegged with 1,748 nails. The job was completed with a pair of handles for easy movement, and rubber stops on the backs to prevent marking the wall, and suitable hooks to enable the suspension from the picture rail. The cost, about £1 only, which of course is a once only cost, the board being used again and again.

It will be seen that our two boards allow a maximum of 3,496 pegs; this is more than sufficient for our 3,200 electors, but wards with larger numbers could increase this by either using more boards, or by reducing the scale and

Here is a new election control system which has been operated with remarkable success by its inventor, the author of this article, in a small ward. Readers searching for greater efficiency at elections may care to try it out.

placing pegs at say ¾ in. intervals, this providing 2,330 places per board if the 3 ft. x 4 ft. type is used.

Along the top of the boards stiff yellow cards are fixed to the first line of pegs, each bearing the name of the street or road in which the polling numbers in the column are situated. If these are prepared before the election it enables the board to be assembled as the canvass returns come in, and regardless of the sequence of their arrival. Each street or road is given a number, and with very long streets several numbers, and these are marked on the street indicator cards. Blank cards, each a fraction under 1 in. square, punched with a small hole in the top centre and made in plain white for Doubtful, pink for Labour and blue for Tory, are now prepared for fixing to the board. A useful illustration here is to read from our first entry.

Street No. 1 in Warlingham East is Albert Road and our indicator card on the board carries this information. Hung on the pegs beneath it are 12 cards in the following order:

Polling No.	Colour
1	Pink
2	Pink
3	Blue
4	Blue
5	Blue
6	White
7	Pink
8	Pink
9	Pink
10	Pink

11 Pink

12 Pink.

The polling number is written in large numerals on the appropriate coloured card, whilst the top right-hand corner bears the street number. The end of each street is marked by a yellow card bearing the name of the next street. This enables the operators on polling day to see that in Albert Road there are eight supporters, three Tories and one Doubtful, and so on with all the other streets.

By the eve of polling day the board is completely covered with multi-coloured cards indicating the polling number, the street number, the politics of the individual represented by that polling number, and the street in which they live.

Tally Counting Device. Considerable thought was required to fulfil the requirement to *see at all times* the comparative strength of votes cast, For, Against and Doubtful. Our solution is by no means 100 per cent accurate, but it does give readings to within about 10 either way—a maximum error of no more than 20, which is sufficiently close for our purposes. This device was knocked up from pieces of timber and was produced at a cost of about 10s. It is simple to make and any carpenter or handyman can do the job. Ours is made on a flat plywood base to which are affixed four pieces of wood 2 in. wide, 1 in. deep, 24 in. long. Between each piece is a space 1 in. wide. This produces a thing that looks rather like a flat board with three channels each 1 in. wide and 1 in. deep running down it. Sliding rods of wood sprung on aero-model elastic travel up and down each channel, and the top of each rod bears a scale, graduated on the thickness of the cards used on the wall board.

The rods also bear a red, blue or white knob—For, Against or Doubtful—and at the head of each channel is a small fixed pointer. As the cards are removed from the wall board, that is, when the particular polling number has polled, they are placed, according to their colour symbol, into the appropriate channel on our gadget.

Now every card has a thickness and the act of placing the card in the channel must displace the sliding rod by a distance equal to the thickness of the card. The rod carries the scale with it and the scale running against the pointer

shows a comparison of the number of cards—that is, votes contained in the channel by the distance that the rod has travelled. One word of warning, always graduate your scale with ready punched cards, for the act of punching tends to make a little difference in the thickness of the card and may thus throw the counter out of balance.

Knocking-up Control. The knocking-up controller has an indexed looseleaf folder into which are pasted the pages of a register, e.g., our page 1 tallies with street No. 1 on the Wall Board and contains the list of voters in Albert Road—Tories and Doubtfuls are crossed out, leaving only Labour entries. We have 43 streets, 43 numbers on our street index and 43 pages in our folder. Provision is made on each page for a record of the times that cars and knockers-up were sent to each individual street, this precludes any possibility of cars being sent to the same street too short a time after the previous visit.

Upon the decision for a car to visit any given street, the controller takes out the matching knocking-up card—this is exactly the same, being a register pasted on to the card—he then places it beside the master card in the folder and crosses through any supporters that have already voted—and sends the car on its way. It is a boast that this system prevents any possibility of idle time for the cars, our view being that six cars, kept waiting 10 minutes for work, is an hour's effort wasted.

Checks. Polling lists are of the type published by London Labour Party, each numbered 1 to 25, and in our preparatory work we number each list to ensure continuity and preclude loss, and carry forward from list to list—25, 50, 75, 100, 125, etc., thus giving a simple check of the total poll at any given time. An hourly record is also kept—readings taken from our counter. This record is also prepared before polling day and in any analysis gives us the position of each category of voters at every hour from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Operation. With all preparations complete, polling day can be taken in its stride and the sequence of events in Warlingham are then as follows:

The poll teller takes the polling numbers on the ready prepared slips, handing

over to a motor-cyclist who carries them to the committee rooms at half-hourly intervals. The committee room staff of four take over the slips, one reads out the numbers, one removes the corresponding cards from the board, the next one sorts the cards into their various colours, blue and white go straight into the counting device, and pink to the car controller. The car controller refers first to the street index number in the top right-hand corner, turns to the corresponding page in his folder, and crosses out the corresponding polling number.

When a car calls for work he takes the knocking-up list, compares it with the

master list, brings it up to date, enters the time of departure, and then awaits the next car. At the end of this action, he naturally places his pink cards into the counter and keeps the records up to date.

Warlingham East, May, 1955.

Votes promised, 950. Votes cast, 833. Percentage poll, 60.3%. Labour percentage of efficiency, 87.68%.

In commending this system, I would add that anyone who is interested is quite welcome to come and have a look at it, providing they let me know when they are coming.

Welwyn Party's Success

by John Emmerson

OUT of an electorate of 3,900 this party has a live paying membership exceeding 300, more than a third of it recruited in 1954. The party could easily have taken in another 50 members in 1955, but wisely decided to see that all current members are well serviced before making a further advance. That advance will be made in 1956.

How was it done? Was there something in it so peculiar to semi-dormitory Welwyn that it could not well be repeated a thousand times up and down the country?

UNDISCOVERED TALENT

It was done by tremendous enthusiasm which counted hard work a pleasure. By looking for, and recognising, amongst all new intake that undiscovered talent for leadership which is present in some proportion in every group of people everywhere. (Labour supporters are but a cross-section of the general public.) Then, having found that hidden talent, training-it to undertake tasks according to its several ability. Quite often the training had to be by doing!

In Welwyn we looked specially for willing assistance in the 25-35 age group. Thus it is already mature in the ways of men and things, if not in political warfare. From that age-group intake we

have found responsible people, some now holding senior office in the party for a year or so before going on to the Rural Council with a really constructive contribution.

TYPE RECRUITED

The people we got that way were not professional folk but men good at their arts and crafts, busy working men, shop stewards, conveners, and the like. Men happy in their homes and gardens but who will still spend precious time to work for a changed society.

In 1951 we decided to "make an impact" on this Tory stronghold. We held half the seats on the Parish Council but had no representation at all on the 14-man Rural Council, which is our Housing Authority.

We therefore revived an earlier News Letter, using it to tell the public the startling things done by a rural council which had to be run by its officers because only they knew what it was all about. The News Letter was a foolscap sheet folded into four pages, and produced professionally so that its good appearance got it an initial acceptance. Thereafter we counted on the attractiveness of its contents to ensure that we got eager readers. We "held a candle to the devil" until we got complaints if the News Letter was not delivered promptly.

Well, that amount of enlightenment about what went on secured us our first two seats on the Rural Council in 1952;

two more in 1953; and another two in 1954. So we had six seats against the Tories eight, and when they didn't all turn up we enjoyed a short-lived but exciting and profitable majority. Regretfully we lost a capricious seat in 1955, but look to win it back this year.

Our election experiences have been great fun. Our opponents issued an Eleventh Hour Message, and kept it till 9 o'clock on the eve of the poll so that there could be no time for a reply. We got a copy about 10 p.m., drafted a reply, got it Roneoed by midnight, and at 6 a.m. had a Dawn Patrol pushing it through the letter boxes!

NEWS LETTER

We kept on with the News Letter, delivering 1,250 copies gratis every month. That alone costs over £60 a year. As that is two-thirds of our subscription income, we have to get our spending money from Socials, Dances, Jumble Sales, Whist Drives, Summer Fêtes, Xmas Bazaars, and other profitable

devices. (Lots of hard work but lots of fun and interest.) Over and above our dues to the Constituency Party, we make a substantial contribution to the cost of the *next* election.

The party sets a high standard for all its activities. If it is a fête, we are favoured by those whose names will draw a crowd, most important in a marginal constituency. We have had Dr. Edith Summerskill, James Callaghan, and last year Hugh Gaitskell. For our monthly meetings we get not just specialists but those who can put over a good story. Talks on the techniques and tactics of Local Government are always popular.

Well, there it is. Sounds a bit like a success story. We suppose it is, but it is not offered as such. It is offered seriously in the firm belief that help is where you want it; that it can be found for the looking, and that when encouraged and trained it can do a job second to none in the fight for a new and better way of life.

If the Register is Late

THE printing dispute, which at the time of writing shows little sign of settlement in the London area, has upset many publications. We find our *Radio Times* in a somewhat unusual format and being printed in France; we read that many trade journals have been reduced in size and some are being produced by other processes; many weekly newspapers have ceased publication.

A number of our parties in and around London have also felt the effect of the dispute by the inability of the electoral registration officers to publish the 1956 register of electors. In some cases it is felt that unless the dispute is settled soon, there is a doubt as to whether the registers can be published in time for the Local Government Elections.

This raises the question of what will happen if the registers are not published in time. The position is covered by

Section 1 (6) of the Electoral Registers Act, 1949, and this reads as follows:

"If any part of a register is not published within the time required by this section, then until the day following that on which it is published the corresponding part of the previous register (whether prepared before or after the passing of this Act) shall continue in use; and where any part of the register used at an election is a part continued in force by this subsection, the Representation of the People Acts (including this Act) shall have effect in relation to the election and the area to which that part relates as if the qualifying date by reference to which that part was prepared were the qualifying date for the election."

It will be seen that this is the only possible provision, though it will create considerable difficulties in respect of the running of an election. It is to be hoped, therefore, that all the 1956 registers will be published before the Local Elections commence.

If the 1955 registers have to be used,

it must be realised that they are considerably out of date, as they will be 19 months old by polling day, the qualifying date being 10th October, 1954.

In the event of the 1956 register of electors not being available when required, it will be wise to consult with the local returning officer on any particular problem that might arise, especially in relation to nomination.

There are two main problems—one legal and the other administrative—that can arise as a result of this printing dispute.

The first is the case of a candidate's qualification to stand when he has not the necessary "12 months residence" qualification, yet would have been a registered elector had the register been published before the last day for nomination. The fact that he was entered on electors list B is an indication that he is a newly-qualified elector, though in fact he is not a registered elector until the register is published.

The second problem is the situation that would arise if the register was published a few days before polling day. This would completely upset the organisation of the canvass, the printing of polling information, etc. The administrative problem facing the returning officer would also be great, so it is to be hoped that such a situation will not arise.

(Continued from page 69)

the same subject.

Whichever method is used the minutes should be recorded in such a way that the receipt of each letter and the decision taken thereon is clearly indicated.

The majority of Constituency Labour Parties, whether having full-time or voluntary secretaries, have a filing system and necessary equipment. It is most essential that this should be the position for a good filing system is a basic administrative necessity.

This may not be the position with very many local Labour Party, ward, women's section, and youth section secretaries, despite the fact that they receive quite a lot of correspondence. Such organisations automatically provide their officers with the necessary minutes account, and receipt books, but they should also ensure that the secretary is supplied with filing equipment, however simple it may be.

Most of these secretaries have to work from their homes, and it does become a little exasperating for other members of the family to be constantly faced with Party correspondence propped up on the mantle-shelf or sideboard, or finding it tucked away in odd corners with other family correspondence.

H. G. Wells gave one of his best novels the title, "You Can't be too Careful"—you certainly can't with correspondence!

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TREAT STATIONERY WITH CARE

says R. Faulding

STATIONERY is the basic raw material of any office and in no way can it be regarded as a luxury, yet at the moment it bears purchase tax at a rate which was increased last November from 25% to 30%. To load the already considerable cost of stationery with this tax surcharge means that in addition to economy in its use, care is also needed both in purchase and storage.

Duplicating paper is probably the biggest item in the stationery bill of a local party both for cost and for quantity. There are many varieties of duplicating paper and obviously correct choice is essential if first-class work is to be produced. A recent correspondent simply asked for five reams of duplicating paper to be supplied and seemingly was unaware of such factors as size, weight, finish, quality, quantity and colour.

Before considering these variances separately it is necessary to be sure why there should be duplicating. It is a way of reproducing copies of a document in which ink is forced through a stencil on to an absorbent paper. In normal circumstances it is uneconomic to reproduce more than 4,000 copies on a duplicator—though this may necessitate cutting additional stencils. Above this quantity it is cheaper to print.

'Throw Aways'

If leaflets are to be reproduced in quantity which will be thrown away by the recipients a lower quality paper would be chosen. If, on the other hand, permanent records are required, or if a good impression is to be made, a better quality would be necessary. In the usual conflict between quantity and quality it is better to choose quality and to restrict quantities so that distribution is made to where it is most effective.

Duplicating paper is obtainable in two basic sizes: the first 8 in. x 13 in., commonly known as 'foolscap', and which is the maximum size that can be run on

the standard foolscap duplicating machines, and 8 in. x 10 in., commonly known as 'quarto', for which it may be necessary to fit paper guides to the machine.

Duplicating paper can be bought in larger-sized sheets and cut down in these sizes, but there are purchase tax complications involved. If the typewriter used for cutting stencils has an 'elite' typeface not only can more words to the page be obtained, but the print is much more readable.

Paper for duplicating is obtainable in varying weights and finishes. A 15-lb. weight is usual for paper to be printed on one side only, while for double-sided work 18-lb. weight is necessary. There is a heavier weight at 21-lb.

Three Grades

A duplicating machine company supplies paper under these grades: light, medium and heavy, with a difference of about two shillings in the retail price between the grades. The absorbency or the finish of the paper depends upon quantity of size added during manufacture—a hard-sized paper absorbs little ink and is suitable for subsequent writing in fountain pen ink. A soft-sized paper, while more absorbent, is more likely to have 'show-through' when printed on both sides. Unsized paper is like blotting paper in soaking up ink and is quite unsuitable for writing with fountain pen ink. There is usually no difference in the prices of soft-sized and hard-sized paper.

A ream of duplicating paper is usually 500 sheets but may be 480 sheets, and the difference of 20 sheets can become important when dealing in large numbers of reams. Apart from the usual creamy-white colour, duplicating paper can be obtained in bleach-white as well as in a variety of tints or colours, but at about sixpence a ream dearer. Coloured work is therefore best used sparingly, if at all.

It is not easy to quote current prices for duplicating paper, not only because of the varieties available, but because of the difficulty in obtaining supplies. Obviously it is better to buy from the manufacturer directly, but the usual

distribution is from manufacturer to mill agents to wholesaler to printer or retail stationer and then to the consumer. Manufacturers of duplicators can supply suitable paper, but it ought to be remembered that they are primarily duplicating machine manufacturers and make available duplicating supplies for those customers who are unwilling or unable to obtain those supplies elsewhere.

It is more economical to buy in bulk whenever possible, but delivery from wholesalers or the mills at present is about three to four months. Buying in bulk often means that discounts are available on purchases as low as 10-ream lots.

In the interests of economy, therefore, it is better to buy duplicating paper in the largest quantities which can be afforded, in the lightest weight practicable, in plain white, and in the absorbency required.

Having once bought the duplicating paper it must be properly stored in a clean, free from damp, dry, well-ventilated place to prevent deterioration.

The paper must be carefully packed flat to avoid creasing and the packs should not be carelessly handled as this causes 'bunching' of the corners which makes for difficulty in feeding paper into the machine. A simple economy is to use faulty copies from earlier jobs for the trial runs instead of using new paper. While the correct choice of paper is essential to the first-class job, the duplicating machine itself must be clean and in good working order. If it is not, call in the trained mechanic, especially if the machine is within its five-year guarantee.

Buy these two important publications

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Deaths

WE REGRET to report the death of W. J. Stimpson, who retired from full-time agency service at the end of 1954.

He was the originator of the 'Stym' system of canvass records now used by many Constituency Labour Parties throughout the country.

'Stimmie', as he was almost universally known, had a long association with the Deptford Constituency Labour Party, going there as full-time agent in 1935 and serving until his retirement.

Before going to Deptford he was agent at Fulham West for three years, though he started his work as an agent in Lancaster as long ago as 1930.

He served as Chairman of the London District of the Agents' Union, recently, and for a time was a valuable member of the Labour Party Annual Conference Standing Orders Committee.

★ ★ ★

ALSO, we regret to report the death of Arthur Harris, Agent to the Maidstone Constituency Labour Party from 1951 to August last, when he was compelled to retire because of ill health.

CANDIDATES

THE following were endorsed as prospective Parliamentary Candidates at the March meeting of the National Executive Committee:

Tavistock	...	Mr. H. Lawrence
South East Essex	...	Mr. R. M. Fryer
Eastleigh	...	Mr. J. E. Haire
Hertford	...	Mr. G. D. Southgate
Bolton East	...	Mr. R. Haines
Norwich South	...	Mr. G. D. Wallace
King's Lynn	...	Mr. A. V. Hilton
Rushcliffe	...	Mr. D. R. Hardman
Eye	...	Mr. E. L. Granville
Woking	...	Mr. R. D. Vaughan Williams
Bradford North	...	Mr. J. Marshall
York	...	Dr. D. Poirier

How to Make and Hold Our Members

THE collecting of subscriptions and maintaining contact with members is one of the most important jobs a ward party has to perform. When tackled properly it becomes the basis for the successful functioning of the ward organisation.

What is meant by doing it properly is demonstrated by T. J. A. Harding, in his report to the annual meeting of the Mandley Park Ward of East Salford Constituency Labour Party.

Mr. Harding writes:

"Starting 1955 with 350 members, we finished the year with 510, an increase of 160. This increase was made up of 193 new members and one removal to the ward, less eight members who were transferred to other wards, 14 members who were lapsed because they moved without leaving an address, 10 who lapsed for various reasons and two members who died.

"We have 276 female and 234 male members; 71 aged 60 or over, of whom 10 Old-Age Pensioners claim the privilege of paying only 1s. per year for their membership.

"The membership as related to polling districts is as follows:

E.E. There are 25 streets. We call in 11 of these, having 73 members in 41 houses.

E.G. There are 16 streets. We call in 13 of these, having 77 members in 44 houses.

E.H. There are 45 streets. We call in 27 of these, having 223 members in 139 houses.

E.I. There are 36 streets. We call in 21 of these, having 137 members in 76 houses.

"Attendance at ward meetings has shown 42 different members attended

during the year, the average attendance being 22. There were five members who never missed a meeting.

"Collections have been excellent, a total of £126 6s. being an increase of £36 9s. 6d. over 1954. Out of the total 510 membership at the end of the year, 409 members paid each month of their membership, 42 members missed one month, 21 missed two months, leaving only 38 members who missed paying more than two months.

"Starting the year with five collectors, we had at different times during the year 11 collectors, of whom only two, Mr. Cunningham and myself, remain of those who were collecting at the beginning of the year. We start the New Year with eight collectors.

"Collections, as I have already remarked, have been excellent, and this is due to the collectors, all of them, who were on the job. Making a second call if the member was out the first time, or asking if the member wished to pay any month(s) missed, has become a natural thing for them to do, so that I am no longer surprised to find some coming in with 100 per cent membership paid each month.

"The collectors are also helping by bringing in enquiries re housing, pension, etc. which I pass on to our councillors. Also, they have started to bring in the names of possible new members."

Discussing membership recruitment, Mr. Harding says:

"There are approximately 8,500 people on the voters list for this ward of whom some 3,000 can usually be relied upon to support the Labour Party at elections in May. This surely leaves plenty of scope for new members to be recruited during the coming year, so that I will be disappointed if we do not finish the year with 600 odd members, with an income of over £150.

"I have checked the Voting Register and find that in the houses we already call at, there are 204 people entitled to

vote who are not actually members of the Party. Allowing that not all of them vote Labour, there is surely scope here for an increase in membership, especially as this applies to some of our active members' homes."

He points to two sources from which recruits can be gained:

"The enrolling of new members through approaching householders who displayed our bills at election times was quite a success, as for example, Arthur Street, 18; Hampshire Street, 14; and Wilmur Avenue, 12 new members showed good returns from this type of approach.

"Recommendations from members is also a very satisfactory method, perhaps more so in that this method seems to help us to get into streets where we have no members, for example, Snowden Street, where a recommendation led to

13 members in that street."

Mr. Harding has a record of the children of members, to whom invitations are given when the ward holds children's parties. Also, he has a record of members who are over 60 years of age.

He ends his encouraging report with a worthwhile proposal:

"One thing I would like to see done is a sickness visitor for any member who happens to be sick. There are several members who live on their own and elderly couples who seem to just about exist, to whom a visit and a few words (plus a quarter of tea or something—out of the ward funds—I know I am sticking my neck out here) would be a blessing. The Labour Party means a lot to some of these old folk, cannot we make mean more by doing some little thing for them?"

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